

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract in the above-identified application with the following:

—An information processing apparatus, disposed between a controlling portion and hardware, for performing a process corresponding to a program that contains encapsulated process portions for controlling the hardware in response to messages received from the controlling portion. The program includes a first process portion for communicating with the controlling portion; a second process portion for communicating with first and second hardware; a third process portion for communicating with the first process portion and the second process portion and executing an interfacing process corresponding to the first hardware; and a fourth process portion for communicating with the first process portion and the second process portion and executing an interfacing process corresponding to the second hardware. The first process portion outputs a message to either the third process portion or the fourth process portion corresponding to a message received from the controlling portion.—